

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

OK

June 30, 2004

TO: Internal File

THRU: Karl R. Houskeeper, Environmental Scientist III, Team Lead

FROM: Joseph C. Helfrich, Environmental Scientist III/Biologist

RE: 2004 Midterm Permit Review, Andalex Resources, Inc., Centennial Mine,
C/007/019, Task ID #1886

SUMMARY:

On April 2, 2004, the Division sent a Midterm review notification to Andalex Resources Inc. The document contained a list of five items chosen for review, one of which included a review of the approved MRP to note any changes in the consumption of water in the mining process. This memo will include a review of that information to ensure compliance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Windy Gap Process.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.21, 817.97; R645-301-322, -301-333, -301-342, -301-358.

Analysis:

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Endangered and Threatened Species

The mine has potential, through water depletions, of adversely affecting four listed threatened and endangered fish species of the upper Colorado River drainage. The Fish and Wildlife Service requires mitigation when water depletions exceed 100 acre-feet annually.

On page 5-9 of the approved MRP under the heading of **Water System** there is a general description of how water is gathered, used and discharged in the mining process. The information should be more specific and include volumes in acre feet/year of water consumed in the mining process and water contributed to the watershed.

Findings:

The information in the approved MRP is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations, prior to midterm approval the permittee must provide the following information in accordance with:

R645-301-322, -301-333, -301-342, -301-358; Page 5-9 of the approved MRP under the heading of **Water System** must be updated to reflect the volumes of water, (preferably in acre feet/year), consumed and discharged in the mining process. The calculations should be based on the criteria provided to the permittee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The permittee should update the MRP prior to Midterm Review approval.